

REMARKS

Claims 17-28 are pending in the application. The amendment filed on November 24, 2003 canceling claims 1-16 and presenting new claims 17-28 was deemed non-responsive as being directed to non-elected subject matter pursuant to MPEP § 821.03.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 17-28, directed to an optical fiber and a display comprising the display comprising the optical fiber, do not relate to a new invention, but to the same invention. The claims have merely been recast in different language, without changing their substance.

Claim 1, as filed with the preliminary amendment of 29 January 2001 upon entry into the U.S. national phase, recites "use of a fluorescent dye doped polymer *as an optical fibre*. . .," a fibre "*characterised by*" a particular choice of dyes. Claim 5 of the preliminary amendment recited that a further aspect of the invention is a display, comprising a fluorescent dye doped polymer as defined in the preceding claims. The amendment filed 24 November 2003 merely recasts the language of the claims without changing their substance. Thus, new claim 17 changes the claim to one that positively recites "an optical fibre" rather than "use of a doped polymer as an optical fibre," but the characteristic features of the invention remain the same as those originally claimed. For example, claim 18 corresponds to claim 2, claim 22 corresponds to claim 3, and claim 23 corresponds to claim 4. With the exception that the ratio of light emitted to light absorbed has now been specified in claim 17 (this latter feature having the appropriate basis in the body of the specification), the invention being claimed is the same.

It should also be noted that no additional searching is required because the search already conducted by the examiner has uncovered references to optical fibers. There is no additional burden on the Office created by the amended claims.

CONCLUSION

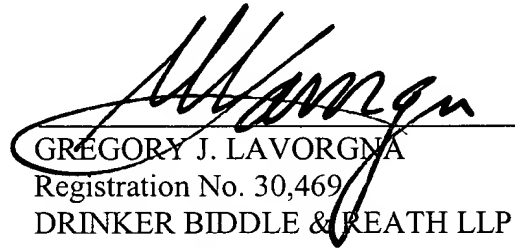
In short, the amendment filed November 24, 2003 does not change the substance of the invention being claimed, does not require further searching, and does not impose any added burden on the Office in reconsidering the application.

Entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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